

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 19 are pending in the application. Currently, all claims have been rejected.

By the present amendment, claim 7 has been amended.

In the office action mailed August 11, 2005, claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite; claims 1 - 6, 9 - 13, and 16 - 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,805,530 to Urban; claims 1 - 6, 9 - 13, and 16 - 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,913,445 to Beddard et al.; and claims 7, 8, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Urban or Beddard et al. in view of Japanese patent document 08303204 to Nishimura.

The foregoing rejections are traversed by the instant response.

With respect to the rejection of claims 7 and 8 on indefiniteness grounds, claim 7 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for "said longitudinal axis". Thus, the rejection is now moot.

With respect to the rejections of claims 1 - 6, 9 - 13, and 16 - 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,805,530 to Urban or U.S. Patent No. 6,913,445 to Beddard et al., a declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 swearing back of both of these references is attached hereto. Thus, the rejections are now moot.

With regard to the obviousness rejection of claims 7, 8, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

either Urban or Beddard et al. in view of Japanese patent document 08303204 to Nishimura, this rejection is also moot in view of the Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 swearing back of the Urban and Beddard et al. references.

New claim 20 is believed to be allowable because there is no applied reference which teaches or suggests its subject matter.

For the foregoing reasons, the instant application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

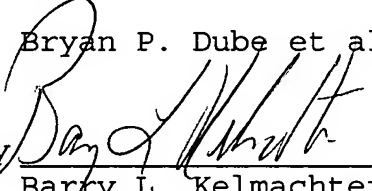
Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response. Should the Director determine that a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on November 8, 2005.

